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Letter dated 18 May 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you and to attach a paper entitled "The Cuban position on terrorism" for circulation as an official document of the General Assembly under item 107 entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", and of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Pedro **Núñez Mosquera**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 18 May 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Cuban position on terrorism

Cuba condemns all acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It further condemns any action aimed at encouraging, supporting, financing or covering up any terrorist act, method or practice.

- Cuban territory has never been and will never be used to organize, finance or carry out terrorist acts against any country, including the United States of America.

Cuba has always had an exemplary record in confronting terrorism:

- It has adopted legislative and various other measures to prevent and suppress all terrorist acts and activities and those directly or indirectly associated with them, and to address the financing of terrorism, border protection and surveillance, arms trafficking, judicial cooperation and accession to international legal instruments on the prevention and suppression of international terrorism;
- It is a State party to the 13 existing international counter-terrorism conventions and fully complies with its obligations under Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004);
- On 20 December 2001, the National Assembly of People's Power of the Republic of Cuba adopted Act No. 93 entitled "Counter-terrorism", which characterizes all acts of international terrorism as serious crimes and prescribes very harsh penalties for them;
- Cuba has also adopted measures to prevent and suppress all activities related to the financing of terrorism. Since 1997, following the entry into force of Resolution No. 91/97 of the Minister-President of the Central Bank of Cuba, the Cuban banking and financial system has been implementing systematic measures for the prevention and detection of illicit capital flows;
- Cuba tightened its already strict border surveillance following the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004);
- Cuba does not possess, nor does it have any intention of possessing, weapons of mass destruction of any kind and complies with its obligations under the international instruments on nuclear, chemical and biological weapons to which it is a party. All its nuclear, chemical and biological programmes are strictly peaceful; they are conducted under the permanent and rigorous control of the relevant national authorities and are subject to monitoring by the competent international agencies. The possession of weapons of mass destruction has never been part of Cuba's national defence strategy;
- In accordance with resolution 1267 (1999), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba regularly informs Cuban consulates and other competent authorities of updates to the Consolidated List maintained by the Security Council

Committee established pursuant to that resolution, also known as the Al-Qaida and the Taliban sanctions committee;

- Cuba has signed 35 agreements on legal assistance with other countries and has repeatedly reiterated its willingness to cooperate with any State in that regard.

In that spirit, Cuba has cooperated — even actively cooperated — with the Government of the United States:

- On three occasions (in November 2001, December 2001 and March 2002), Cuba submitted to the United States authorities a draft bilateral cooperation programme on combating terrorism. In July 2009, February and June 2010, and more recently, in January 2011, the Government of Cuba reiterated to the Government of the United States its readiness to cooperate in that area.

- On several occasions, the Cuban authorities informed the Government of the United States of their willingness to exchange information concerning terrorist acts directed against targets in either of the two countries. In 1984, Cuba warned the United States of the planned assassination of President Ronald Reagan and the suspects were arrested by the United States authorities. In 1998, it informed the administration of President William Clinton of plans to detonate bombs on aircraft belonging to Cuban airlines and airlines of third countries travelling to Cuba, many of them carrying United States citizens.

- Cuba was one of the first countries to publicly condemn the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 in the United States. It communicated its willingness to provide medical and humanitarian assistance to the victims, and immediately offered to open up its airspace and its airports to aircraft carrying passengers bound for the United States.

- The Cuban authorities have provided the United States with a significant amount of information on terrorist acts committed against Cuba. In 1997, 1998, 2005, 2006 and 2010, Cuba provided the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation with considerable information on the bomb explosions that took place in various Cuban tourist centres, providing them with access to the terrorists responsible for those acts, who had been detained in Cuba, to witnesses and to evidence.

Since 1959, Cuba has been a victim of terrorist acts which have claimed the lives of 3,478 Cuban citizens and left 2,099 maimed. Many of those actions were organized, financed and carried out from United States territory.

Since the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, successive United States Governments have allowed hundreds of criminals, assassins and terrorists into their territory, ignoring the numerous official requests from the Government of Cuba to return them under the Extradition Agreements in force at the time. Many of those individuals are still at large in the United States, even after being implicated in further terrorist acts against citizens and interests of the United States, Cuba and other countries.

The most notorious and horrific incident was the bombing of a Cubana airlines jet in mid-air on 6 October 1976, killing 73 passengers. It was the first terrorist act against civil aviation in the Western hemisphere. One of its perpetrators, Orlando Bosch Ávila, died peacefully in Miami, where he lived in complete freedom and

enjoyed impunity after President George H. W. Bush granted him a pardon arranged by the Cuban extreme right. Until his final days, Bosch openly defended terrorism against Cuba with no consequences. Similar treatment was accorded to another perpetrator of this heinous crime, Luis Posada Carriles. He, too, was neither charged nor prosecuted in the United States for this act or for having been the mastermind of a series of 1997 bomb attacks against Cuban hotels, killing Italian tourist Fabio DiCelmo. On the contrary, Posada has just been scandalously acquitted following his sham trial, in which he was merely charged with lying to the United States immigration authorities about entering the country illegally in 2005.

The Government of the United States, if it is to be true to its avowed commitment to combat terrorism, should abandon its double standards by taking action against those persons who have perpetrated terrorist acts against Cuba from United States territory and releasing the five Cuban heroes unjustly jailed for protecting Cuba from terrorism and defending the integrity of citizens of the United States and other countries.